

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/289,601

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print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer;

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means; and

job processing state monitor means for monitoring a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from said print job data processing means.

2. ~~The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing of the print data.~~

3. ~~The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein if the reply information is related to print data concerning a print operation, said print job data processing means checks execution of the print data concerning the print operation before returning the reply information to the predetermined destination.~~

4. ~~The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein~~

~~said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination at the return timing specified in the timing specification information.~~

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5. The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing the print data related to the reply information.

6. The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after checking processing of the print data concerning a print operation related to the reply information.

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8. The print system as claimed in claim 7 wherein said reply information issuance means issues the timing specification information and the reply information so that the timing

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specification information, the print data and the reply information are processed by said print job
data processing means in this order.

10. The system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9 further including reply information
detection means for detecting the reply information returned from said print job data processing
means and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor means.

11. A printer for printing based on input data, comprising:
reception means for receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;
print job data processing means for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply
information from the print job data, and returning the reply information to a predetermined
destination which is external to the printer; and
print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing
means.

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12. The Printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein said print job data processing means
returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after said printer control means
completes processing of the print data.

13. ~~The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein if the reply information is related to~~
print data concerning a print operation, said print job data processing means checks that the print
data concerning the print operation is executed by said print control means before returning the
reply information to the predetermined destination.

14. The printer as claimed in claim 13 wherein the print data concerning the print
operation is related to at least any one of a paper feed instruction, a paper eject instruction, a
page feed instruction, a line feed instruction, and a carriage return instruction.

15. The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the print job data further contains
timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information, and
wherein

said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined
destination at the return timing specified in the timing specification information.

16. The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the print job data further contains
timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information, and
wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print job data processing
means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after said print control
means completes processing of the print data related to the reply information.

5.6 C3 > ~~18. The printer as claimed in claim 17 wherein the print job data is formatted so that the timing specification information, the print data, and the reply information are processed by said print job data processing means in this order.~~

5.6 C3 > ~~19. The printer as claimed in any of claims 11 to 18 wherein said reception means, said print job data processing means, and said print control means can operate in parallel.~~

20. A recording medium recording a program for generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, said recording medium recording:

a print data generation function of generating print data based on an input document;

a reply information issuance function of issuing reply information at a predetermined position of print job data containing the print data; and

a job processing state monitor function of monitoring a processing state of the print job data based on the reply information returned to an external destination from the printer in a format that can be read and understood by a computer.

Please add the following new claims:

5.6 C4 > ~~23. A printer system including a host computer and a printer comprising:
a first controller contained in the host computer, wherein the first controller generates print job data comprising print data and reply information located in the print job data at a~~

predetermined position with respect to the print data, and transmits the print job data to the printer;

a second controller contained in the printer, wherein the second controller receives the print job data from the host computer, detects the reply information from the print job data, returns the reply information to a predetermined destination, and controls printing based on the print data contained in the print job data; and

a monitoring processor, which is external to the printer, receives the reply information returned from the printer, and monitors a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from the printer.

24. A recording medium containing a program to instruct a processor within a printer to perform a routine, comprising:

receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;

interpreting the print data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning the reply information to a predetermined destination external to the printer; and

printing based on interpretation of said print data.